



# Australian Bureau of Statistics

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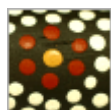
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## In this Issue

#### IN THIS ISSUE

*Inform NT* (cat. no. 1308.7) is a quarterly newsletter produced by the Northern Territory Office of the ABS. It provides information about statistical developments, training activities and statistical information relating to the Northern Territory (NT). *Inform NT* is designed to raise awareness of ABS products and services and to assist researchers, policy makers, service providers and others with an interest in the NT.

#### FORTHCOMING ISSUES

##### ISSUE (QUARTER)

September 2009

December 2009

March 2010

June 2010

##### Release Date

30 September 2009

21 December 2009

31 March 2010

30 June 2010

## INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service (NIRS) on 1300 135 070.

## Northern Territory Regional Director



### MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

#### Acting Regional Director - Tom Joseph ~ Budget Outcomes

#### ACTING REGIONAL DIRECTOR - TOM JOSEPH

Hi, I am acting in the position while Marilyn Henden is off enduring the Canberra weather in Central Office. I have transferred from the WA office of the ABS, where I headed the Business Statistics Centre for Labour Statistics. The NT Office has been very busy meeting with a number of agencies, preparing for the Census test for remote communities, and conducting a number of training courses and consultation sessions. This has given me the chance to get out and meet many of you and I look forward to working with all of you while I am here.

Since the last edition, the office has conducted training in Understanding Demographic Data and Turning Data into Information. These courses have been well-subscribed and we look forward to presenting Principles of Questionnaire Design in September. In early May we also held a consultation session on the draft Indigenous Wellbeing Framework. Thank you to the many who attended and contributed to this valuable work being conducted by our National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics.

This is an exciting time for the organisation, particularly with the announcement of the budget outcomes for an expanded work programme (see below).

The NT Office and the ABS has also been working closely with Dennis Griffiths and Hock Seng Lee to improve the NT statistical geography. This project has been ongoing since 2004 and will lead to improvements in census geography for the 2011 Census. Congratulations to everyone who worked on this project. Best wishes also to Dennis on his retirement; we wish him all the very best on his new adventures.

On an administrative note, you might have noticed that the ABS NT Office has not as yet moved to the Civitas Building at 22 Harry Chan Avenue. We will advise all our clients when this move takes place.

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#### BUDGET OUTCOMES

Following the announcement of the Federal Budget in May, the ABS has been successful in securing an additional \$15m annually in Government appropriation. As a result of the

increased funding, and following an extensive consultation process with users, the ABS will be in a position to reinstate, continue or enhance several programs. This includes: reinstating the full sample for the Labour Force Survey; continuing the full monthly sample for the Retail Survey; and restoring funding for most of the other programs that had funding cut in 2008–09.

In addition, the ABS has secured funding for: (1) the creation of a new index to measure the out-of pocket living costs experienced by households whose principal source of income is derived from a pension or other government benefit; (2) to assist in the measurement of progress in reform and improvements in service delivery against performance indicators in COAG National Agreements in the areas of health, disability, education and housing; and, (3) Census field staff pays to ensure compliance with the new National Employment Standards under the revised workplace relations system.

For further information please see [ABS Budget Outcome - Change to the work program 09/10 and beyond.](#)

Tom Joseph

Acting Regional Director

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## Feature Article



### FEATURE ARTICLE

#### DIAGNOSING DATA QUALITY: HOW HEALTHY ARE YOUR DATASETS?

Between 'Closing the Gap', the Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER), and the Council of Australian Governments' (COAG) new financial framework, the Northern Territory has never been so reliant on accurate and meaningful statistics. However, data is a meaningless stream of numbers without information about who, when, where, what and how it was collected; otherwise known as 'metadata'.

There have been several means implemented to assist the NT to manage and source metadata on existing collections; not least of which is the Data Sources Inventory. The NT's Data Sources Inventory is an initiative of NT Treasury that aims to create a metadata repository for NT datasets.

To help users and producers of statistics assess the metadata of their own and others' datasets, the ABS recently published a *Data Quality Framework* (DQF) (cat. no.1520.0) based on the *Statistics Canada Quality Assurance Framework (2002)* and the *European Statistics Code of Practice (2005)*. The framework is designed to assist all users and producers of data to evaluate the quality of statistical collections and products through seven dimensions of quality, which are:

[Institutional Environment;](#)

[Accuracy;](#)

[Relevance;](#)

[Timeliness;](#)

Interpretability;  
Coherence;  
and Accessibility.

These dimensions provide the standard framework for assessing and reporting on the quality of statistical information. It is a tool that improves a user's ability to:

- decide whether a dataset or statistical product is fit for purpose (which in turn helps to identify data gaps);
- assess the data quality of seemingly similar collections; and
- interpret data.

It can also assist those developing statistical collections to produce high quality outputs.

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**Following is a summary of each dimension divided into tips for both users and producers of statistics.**

### ***Dimension 1: Institutional Environment***

Institutional Environment refers to the institutional and organisational factors that may influence the effectiveness and credibility of the agency producing the statistics.

#### *Producers of statistics*

To manage Institutional Environment, an organisation that collects data should build a culture that focuses on quality, and an emphasis on objectivity and professionalism. Adequate resources and skills should be made available for the purpose intended. Cooperation of respondents can be encouraged by providing appropriate legal mandate and guarantees.

#### *Users of statistics*

To assess the Institutional Environment dimension of published data, a user of statistics should consider: impartiality and objectivity; professional independence; mandate for data collection; adequacy of resources; quality commitment; and statistical confidentiality.

### ***Dimension 2: Accuracy***

Accuracy refers to the degree to which the data correctly describe the phenomenon they were designed to measure. Accuracy should be assessed in terms of the major sources of errors that potentially cause inaccuracy.

#### *Producers of statistics*

To manage Accuracy, an organisation that collects data should give explicit consideration to the trade-offs between accuracy, cost and timeliness during the design stage. The coverage of the target population that can be achieved by the data collection strategy should be assessed. Proper testing of the instruments for data collection will ensure the reduction of response errors. Adequate measures have to be in place for encouraging response, following up non-response, and dealing with missing data (e.g., through imputation or adjustment made to the estimates). All stages of collection and processing should be subject to proper consideration of the need for quality assurance processes, including appropriate internal and external consistency checking of data with corresponding correction strategies.

#### *Users of statistics*

To assess the Accuracy dimension of published data, a user of statistics should consider: coverage error; sample error; non-response error; response error; revisions to data; and other sources of errors including those caused by incorrect processing of data, alterations made to the data to ensure the confidentiality of the respondents, rounding errors, and other quality assurance processes.

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### ***Dimension 3: Relevance***

Relevance refers to how well the statistical product or release meets the users' needs.

#### *Producers of statistics*

To manage Relevance, an organisation that collects data should stay abreast of the information needs of its users. Mechanisms for doing this include various consultative and intelligence-gathering processes, and regular stakeholder reviews.

#### *Users of statistics*

To assess the Relevance dimension of published data, a user of statistics should consider: scope and coverage; reference period; geographic detail; main outputs/ data items and whether the data measures what it was intended to measure; classifications and statistical standards; type of estimates available; and other cautions such as information about any other relevant issue or caution that should be exercised in the use of the data.

### ***Dimension 4: Timeliness***

Timeliness refers to the delay between the reference period (to which the data pertain) and the date at which the data become available; and the delay between the advertised date and the date at which the data become available (i.e., the actual release date). These aspects are important considerations in assessing quality, as lengthy delays between the reference period and data availability, or between advertised and actual release dates, can have implications for the currency or reliability of the data.

#### *Producers of statistics*

To manage Timeliness, an organisation that collects data should give consideration to the capability of the organisation to produce the statistics within the given time frame. This capability includes staffing resources, system requirements, and the level of accuracy required of the data. The release of preliminary data followed by revised and final figures is often used a strategy for allowing less accurate data to be available sooner for decision making, with the subsequent release of more complete data occurring at a later stage.

#### *Users of statistics*

To assess the Timeliness dimension of published data, a user of statistics should consider: timing, such as time lags between the reference period and when the data actually become available; and the frequency of the survey or other collection.

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### ***Dimension 5: Interpretability***

Interpretability refers to the availability of information to help provide insight into the data.

#### *Producers of statistics*

To manage Interpretability, an organisation that collects data should give consideration to the provision of sufficient information about the statistical measures and processes of data collection. Users need to know what has been measured, how it was measured and how well it was measured. The description of the methodology allows the user to assess whether the methods used were scientific or objective, and the degree of confidence they could have in the results.

#### *Users of statistics*

To assess the Interpretability dimension of published data, a user of statistics should consider: presentation of the information; and the availability of information regarding the data, such as concepts, sources and methods.

### ***Dimension 6: Coherence***

Coherence refers to the internal consistency of a statistical collection, product or release, as well as its comparability with other sources of information, within a broad analytical framework and over time. The use of standard concepts, classifications and target populations promotes coherence, as does the use of common methodology across surveys.

#### *Producers of statistics*

To manage Coherence, an organisation that collects data should give consideration to using standard frameworks, concepts, variables and classifications, to ensure the target of measurement is consistent over time and across different collections. As well, the use of common methodology's and systems for data collection and processing will contribute to coherence. Where data are available from different sources, consideration should be given to their confrontation and possible integration.

#### *Users of statistics*

To assess the Coherence dimension of published data, a user of statistics should consider: changes to data items; the capacity to make meaningful comparisons across data items; comparison with previous releases; and comparison with other products available.

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### ***Dimension 7: Accessibility***

Accessibility refers to the ease of access to data by users, including the ease with which the existence of information can be ascertained, as well as the suitability of the form or medium through which information can be accessed. The cost of the information may also represent an aspect of accessibility for some users.

#### *Producers of statistics*

To manage Accessibility an organisation that collects data should give consideration to helping users know about the existence of the data or statistical product, locate it, and import it into their own working environment. Output catalogues, delivery systems, distribution channels and media, and strategies for engagement with users are all important considerations relating to this quality dimension.

#### *Users of statistics*

To assess the Accessibility dimension of published data, a user of statistics should consider: the extent to which the data are publicly available; and the specific products available, the formats of these products, their cost, and the available data items which they contain.

A more detailed discussion of the [ABS Data Quality Framework, May 2009](#) (cat. no. 1520.0)

can be found on the ABS website.

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## Latest Statistics



### LATEST STATISTICS

#### [Northern Territory Summary Statistics](#)

#### [OUT NOW: 2009 NT at a Glance](#)

#### [Darwin House Prices Continue to Rise](#)

#### [New Estimates for Indigenous Life Expectancy Released](#)

#### [Northern Territory Tourist Accommodation](#)

#### [Sales of New Motor Vehicles](#)

#### [Estimated Resident Population for Northern Territory Shires](#)

#### [New Confidentialised Unit Record Files \(CURFs\)](#)

#### [Measures of Australia's Progress](#)

### NORTHERN TERRITORY SUMMARY STATISTICS

Catalogue Number	Selected Data	Units	Northern Territory	Australia
<a href="#">3101.0</a>	Estimated Resident Population (preliminary)(a)	'000	221.7	21 644.0
<a href="#">6202.0</a>	Total Employed (Trend, May 2009)	'000	120.6	10 788.1
<a href="#">6202.0</a>	Total Unemployed (Trend, May 2009)	'000	4.9	654.9
<a href="#">6202.0</a>	Unemployment Rate (Trend, May 2009)	%	3.9	5.7
<a href="#">6202.0</a>	Unemployment Rate (Trend, April 2009)	%	3.9	5.6
<a href="#">6202.0</a>	Civilian population aged 15+ years(b)	'000	165.6	17 481.4
<a href="#">8731.0</a>	Total Dwelling Units approved, % change from previous month (Trend, April 2009)	%	7.7	2.2
<a href="#">8731.0</a>	Total Dwelling Units approved, % change from previous month (Trend, Mar 2009)	%	8.7	1.8
<a href="#">6401.0</a>	Consumer Price Index (CPI), % Change Mar Qtr 2008 to Mar Qtr 2009	%	2.8(c)	2.5(d)
<a href="#">6401.0</a>	Consumer Price Index (CPI), % Change Dec Qtr 2008 to Mar Qtr 2009	%	0.1(c)	0.1(d)

(a) Population at end December quarter 2008.

(b) See *Labour Force Australia, May 2009* (cat. no. 6202.0), explanatory note 10.

(c) Darwin.

(d) Weighted average of eight capital cities.

For further statistics about the NT see *Regional Statistics Northern Territory, 2008* (cat. no. 1362.7)

### OUT NOW: 2009 NORTHERN TERRITORY AT A GLANCE

The 2009 edition of *Northern Territory at a Glance* (cat. no. 1304.7) was released on 28 May in the form of a printed brochure and PDF file. It provides an excellent overview of NT demography, education, labour market, industry sector, employment, prices, overseas trade, agriculture, mining, transport, tourism, retail trade, construction and climate. The PDF file

can be [downloaded](#) for free from the ABS website and brochure copies are available from the NT ABS Office by calling 08 8943 2100 or emailing [nt.statistics@abs.gov.au](mailto:nt.statistics@abs.gov.au).

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## **DARWIN HOUSE PRICES CONTINUE TO RISE**

House prices are decreasing across Australia but Darwin seems to be bucking the trend. The March quarter release of *House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities, Mar 2009* (cat. no. 6416.0) contains preliminary estimates that show the house price index for established houses in Darwin increased by approximately 2% between December quarter 2008 and March quarter 2009, while most other capitals decreased.

Over the year to March 2009, the house price index for established houses in Darwin increased by approximately 11%. The only other capital city to experience growth in the price index for established houses was Hobart, which rose by approximately 1% over the 12 month period. The weighted average of the eight capital cities during this same 12 month period decreased by 7%. The largest declines were seen in Perth (-10%), Sydney (-7%) and Melbourne (-7%).

## **NEW ESTIMATES FOR INDIGENOUS LIFE EXPECTANCY RELEASED**

The *Experimental Life Tables for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2005–2007* (cat. no. 3302.0.55.003) was released on 25 May. This publication presents estimates of life expectancy for male and female Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians for the reference period 2005–2007, for New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, the Northern Territory and Australia. While the underlying method of construction of the life tables remains the same (that is, age/sex-specific death rates are derived from numbers of Indigenous deaths and the Indigenous population), the method for accounting for under-identification of Indigenous deaths has changed.

Life expectancy at birth of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians was 67.2 years for men and 72.9 years for women for 2005–2007. The life expectancy of Indigenous men is 11.5 years lower than for non-Indigenous men, while life expectancy of Indigenous women is 9.7 years lower than for non-Indigenous women. The Northern Territory had the lowest life expectancy for Indigenous men (61.5 years) and women (69.2 years).

These Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander life expectancy estimates were derived using a new method that draws on information from the ABS Indigenous [Mortality Quality Study](#) conducted in 2006–07 as part of the [Census Data Enhancement Project](#). The availability of that information considerably improves the quality and robustness of the estimates. Previously published Indigenous life expectancy estimates had been derived using methods based on a range of assumptions and those estimates were very sensitive to the assumptions made.

For further information on the new calculation method see the [explanatory notes](#) of the publication.

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## **NORTHERN TERRITORY TOURIST ACCOMMODATION**



The Northern Territory is a major tourist destination so accommodation providers will be particularly interested in state data cubes provided in *Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, Northern Territory (NT) December 2008* (cat. no. 8635.7.55.001) released on 27 March 2009. This data provides an insight into occupancy rates, takings and lengths of stay for various accommodation types for regions within the NT.

In the December quarter 2008, hotels, motels and serviced apartments with 15 rooms or more in Darwin showed 67% room occupancy. During the same period, Alice Springs tourist region had an occupancy rate of approximately 59%. The average length of stay was higher for Darwin tourist region at 2.4 nights compared to 2.2 nights for Alice Springs tourist region. The only other tourist region to show higher average lengths of stay is the Arnhem tourist region, with 2.5 nights.

Trend data shows that room occupancy rates for hotels, motels and serviced apartments with 15 rooms or more in the NT was approximately 64% for the December quarter 2008. Takings from this accommodation for the December quarter reached almost \$62 million.

## **SALES OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES**

Monthly new car sales in Australia have shown a steady decline since the highest number of recorded sales in January 2008 (90 759). Recently released data show that sales Australia-wide have decreased approximately 20% in the 12 months to April 2009, and 1% since March 2009 (trend estimates). March 2009 to April 2009 trend estimates show a decrease in all states and territories. The Northern Territory had the largest decrease, with 3% followed by South Australia and Victoria with 2%. There were 772 new motor vehicle sales registered in the Northern Territory in April 2009, compared with 1049 in April 2008.

For more information see the latest issue of *Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, April 2009* (cat. no. 9314.0).

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## **ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION FOR NORTHERN TERRITORY SHIRES**

### **Geography Changes**

On 1 July 2008, the new NT Local Government structure came into effect, resulting in the establishment of eight large (new) shires, three small shires, and the retention of five existing municipal councils. Under the current *Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)* when the Local Government Area (LGA) boundaries change, the ABS will update the boundaries in the next edition of the ASGC. As LGAs consist of one or more whole Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) it meant that the ABS also had to change and introduce new SLAs into the NT geography for the 2008 edition of the ASGC. The current ASGC (2008) boundaries for the Northern Territory can be found in *Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), 2008* (cat. no. 1216.0).

### **ERPs for New Shires (LGAs and SLAs)**

On 23 April 2009, the Estimated Resident Population (ERP) for the new NT LGAs and SLAs were published for the first time in *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2007-08* (cat. no. 3218.0). For this publication, the ABS has prepared a time series back to June 2001 of the ERP of all NT SLAs/LGAs and unincorporated areas based on the ASGC 2008 boundaries.

The 2008 edition of the ASGC introduced large changes to the NT geography, for example, the unincorporated areas of the NT went from covering 91.4% of the NT's land mass and 16.5% of its ERP at 30 June 2007, to only 1.5% of the NT's landmass and 4.0% of its ERP at 30 June 2008.

## **ERPs for CDs and Postcode Areas**

ERPs are also available for Collection Districts (CDs) and postcode areas for 30 June 2008. Age and sex breakdowns for this low level data will be available in the middle of August 2009. This data will only be available via a paid consultancy service.

Please call our National Information Referral Service on **1300 135 070** or email [client.services@abs.gov.au](mailto:client.services@abs.gov.au) with your request.

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## **NEW CONFIDENTIAL UNIT RECORD FILES (CURFs)**

The 2007 National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing was designed to obtain national benchmarks on a wide range of mental health issues, and to enable changes in health to be monitored over time. On 15 April 2009, the *Mental Health and Wellbeing, Basic and Expanded CURFs, Australia, 2007* were released. The CURFs contain confidentialised data on diagnosis, mental health condition, and consultations for mental health (service use) for each selected person and the household to which they belong.

This was one of several exciting CURFs to be released this year, including the *Census of Population and Housing: Census Sample File (5%), Expanded CURF, Australia, 2006*: a comprehensive 5% Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) containing Census characteristics, for a random sample of person, family, household and dwelling variables; and the *Employee Earnings and Hours, Expanded CURF, Australia, 2006*, which provides the distribution and composition of average weekly earnings and hours of employees classified by sex, adult/junior, full-time/part-time, managerial/non-managerial, industry, State/Territory, sector (private/government), employer unit size, and composition of earnings and hours paid for.

For comprehensive information about these CURFs see the [list of available CURFs](#) web page.

### **Not sure what a CURF is?**

A Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) is a file of responses to an ABS survey that has had specific identifying information about a person or organisation confidentialised. Each person's or organisation's response is called a 'unit record' or 'microdata'. CURFs are useful for researchers and statisticians as they allow them to discover specific information and trends. For detailed information see '[what is CURF microdata?](#)'

### **How do I get a CURF?**

Access to CURF microdata is tightly regulated as the ABS considers the protection of respondent privacy as vitally important and goes to great lengths to maintain it by confidentialising all microdata. Information about microdata confidentiality is available on the [CURF microdata entry page](#).

Access to CURF Microdata on CD-ROM or via the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL)

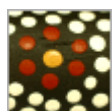
or ABS Data Laboratory requires: [reading the managing ABS Confidentialised Unit Record Files \(CURFs\)](#) - a step by step guide; an [individual user undertaking form \(IUU1\)](#) from the CURF applicant countersigned by the organisation's CURF Contact Officer; and a [request to access a CURE form \(REQ1 or 2\)](#), indicating which CURFs are requested and what type of access is required.

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## MEASURES OF AUSTRALIA'S PROGRESS

*Measures of Australia's Progress: Summary Indicators, 2009* (cat. no. 1383.0.55.001) was released on the 30 April 2009 and includes State and Territory data as [excel data cubes](#). *Measures of Australia's Progress* (MAP) data cubes provide a selection of thirteen tables which include: health, education, unemployment, income, crime, economic hardship, wealth, the air and atmosphere, inland waters, land and biodiversity; all with state and territory comparisons and Australia totals. MAP is not intended as a substitute for the full array of statistics: the ABS hopes that readers will be led to read other ABS publications on aspects of society, the economy and the environment that particularly interest them.

## Developments in ABS Statistics



### DEVELOPMENTS IN ABS STATISTICS

[Statistical Literacy Pilot Kicks Off on the Tiwi Islands](#)

[2011 Census Engagement Underway](#)

[NSS Newsletter](#)

[ABS Runner-up in Excellence in e-Government Award](#)

[Historical ABS Publications](#)

[BetaWorks](#)

[Australian Social Trends](#)

[Community Indicators Summit 22-23 July](#)

### STATISTICAL LITERACY PILOT KICKS OFF ON THE TIWI ISLANDS

The ABS recently completed a pilot programme on the Tiwi Islands to help Indigenous school students improve their statistical literacy through football.

The Tiwi Islands Sport Statistical Literacy Pilot project was developed to use the high level of interest in Australian Rules Football (AFL) on the islands to improve the statistical literacy of the Tiwi College students in a fun yet educational way.

Students involved in the pilot collected data on their handball and goal kicking abilities and then learnt how to analyse the data to tell a story.

Initial feedback on the pilot has been very positive and it will hopefully result in a project to be conducted across the entire Tiwi Islands during their home and away football season. If the project is deemed a success, it may become a national [Indigenous Community Engagement Strategy](#) (ICES) training package that can be adapted to sports other than

AFL.

The pilot could not have been run without the support of the Tiwi Island Shire Council, the Clontarf Football Academy, Tiwi College, the Tiwi Education Board and the Tiwi Land Council.

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## 2011 CENSUS ENGAGEMENT UNDERWAY

In May 2009 the first Census engagement visits were undertaken in the Top End and Central Australia. Pam Tyler travelled to the communities of Gapuwiak, Milingimbi and Ramingining in Arnhem Land while Michael Bouchier took to the red dust in the Centre to visit Yuendumu, Papunya and Mt Liebig. The purpose of these visits was to make contact with the key players in each community to gain their support for the upcoming Census 'tests' and to gain the intelligence needed to plan for the tests.

A new concept of 'mobile teams' will be used to enumerate these communities for the test, replacing the Census Field Officer approach used in the 2006 Census. Some newly-designed forms will also be tested and, as in all Censuses, a number of local people will be employed to assist with the count.

It is anticipated that the mobile team personnel will be recruited and trained before mid-July this year, after which a second visit will be made to these communities with the primary object of recruiting local staff and familiarising the new teams with Census testing activities.



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## NSS NEWSLETTER

The first edition of the *National Statistical Service (NSS) Newsletter* was released in April this year. This newsletter aims to keep readers in touch with developments in the field of statistics. The April edition features a review of the NatStats08 Conference, the upcoming Community Indicators Summit, and the completion of the National Data Network pilot project. Future issues of this newsletter will focus on statistical initiatives being undertaken by all levels of government in Australia.

You can subscribe to *NSS News* by sending an e-mail to [inquiries@nss.gov.au](mailto:inquiries@nss.gov.au) requesting your name be added to the mailing list. Alternatively you can access the newsletter directly on the [NSS website](#).

## ABS RUNNER-UP FOR EXCELLENCE IN E-GOVERNMENT AWARD

Recently the ABS was awarded runner-up in the 2009 excellence in e-Government award for the development of CData Online. This is an outstanding achievement for the ABS and well-deserved recognition for all staff involved.

The excellence in e-Government award promotes excellence in the use of information and communication technology in Australia at all levels of Government.

### What is CData Online?

CData Online is a free online tool which combines information on Australian society from the 2006 Census, with web graphing and mapping capability. It allows you to create your own tables of Census data on a range of different topics. With CData Online, you can cross-tabulate chosen Census data variables to produce a table which can also be viewed as a graph or a thematic map. You can access data for areas as small as a Collection District (around 225 households) or as large as Australia. CData Online allows you the freedom to select and combine areas that interest you by creating your own customised geographic areas. A detailed user manual is also available.

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## HISTORICAL ABS PUBLICATIONS

The ABS website is an excellent repository for modern statistical information, but what about all that data collected before the advent of the internet? Historical publications are continuing to be loaded to the ABS website and provide a valuable statistical picture of Australia since Federation.

### Titles completed and available:

1908 - 2008 Year Book, Australia (cat. no. 1301.0)  
1993 - 2009 Labour Statistics, Australia and its predecessor 1911 - 1997 Labour Report (cat. no. 6101.0)  
1960 - 2008 Schools, Australia (cat. no. 4221.0)  
1991 Census of Population and Housing (various catalogue numbers)  
1986 Census of Population and Housing (various catalogue numbers)  
1981 Census of Population and Housing (various catalogue numbers)  
1976 Census of Population and Housing (various catalogue numbers)  
1972 - 2008 Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product (cat. no. 5206.0)  
1961 - 2008 Balance of Payments, Australia (cat. no. 5302.0)  
1967 - 2008 Average Weekly Earnings (cat. no. 6302.0)  
1972 - 2009 Consumer Price Index (cat. no. 6401.0)  
1964 - 2008 Education and Work, Australia (cat. no. 6227.0)  
1979 - 1994 Labour Force Status and Educational Attainment (cat. no. 6235.0)  
1992 - 2007 Research and Experimental Development, Business Enterprises, Australia (cat. no. 8104.0)

### Planned releases:

Australian Economic Indicators (cat. no. 1350.0)  
Social Indicators (cat. no. 4101.0)  
Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0)

## BETAWORKS

On Friday 27 March [BetaWorks](#) was released to the public. BetaWorks is a "sandpit" environment developed by the ABS that enables new web design concepts and enhancements to be show-cased and tested by the general public. It allows users to post comments in a blog format on new concepts as our website evolves, and facilitates our clients being involved in shaping the look and feel of the future ABS website.

Projects that are currently available for comment include ABS Office Locations, Time Series Directory, and CDATE Online tutorials. Why not go and have a look for yourself.

Before posting comments on BetaWorks please read the [Terms of Use](#) and be aware that comments posted will be available to view by the public.

## AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL TRENDS

After 15 years of presenting an annual statistical picture of Australian society, *Australian Social Trends* (AST) is now a quarterly publication. The March 2009 issue of [Australian Social Trends](#) (cat. no. 4102.0) is the first of four issues being released in 2009 and features articles about Australia's ageing population, including future population trends, retirement and superannuation. There are eight articles in all, covering these and a range of other topics such as marriage and partnering, mental health and renewable energy.

*Australian Social Trends* contains a series of [state and territory data cubes](#) on the following topics: population, family and community, health, education and training, work, economic resources, housing, and other areas of social concern, with the full range of topics available for the NT. These spreadsheets will be updated on a rolling basis, with updates to the population spreadsheets, and the education and training spreadsheets planned for the June 2009 issue.

The entire set of *Australian Social Trends* articles published since 1994 is available via the ['All articles'](#) section.

**The next release of *Australian Social Trends* will be on the 30 June 2009.**

## COMMUNITY INDICATORS SUMMIT 22-23 July

The Australian Bureau of Statistics will be hosting a Community Indicators Summit in Brisbane from 22-23 July.

The summit is one part of a series of global initiatives aiming to move 'beyond GDP' to a more comprehensive view of societal progress that takes into account social and environmental concerns as well as economic ones.

The Community Indicators Summit will provide a unique opportunity to share learnings, exchange ideas and strategies and report on advancements in the field of community indicators in Australia and internationally.

An exciting programme is being developed and will include practical interactive workshops on the themes of Measuring Australia's Progress, using Community Indicators for Better Local Government, and Wellbeing in Indigenous Communities. Interactive sessions will provide an opportunity for you to discuss current issues facing the development and use of community indicators, and to contribute your ideas for the future. A feature of the Summit will be practical demonstrations that showcase exciting community indicator initiatives.

For information on how to register, email [inquires@nss.gov.au](mailto:inquires@nss.gov.au) or visit the Summit website [www.nss.gov.au/communityindicators09](http://www.nss.gov.au/communityindicators09)

## Available Soon



**AVAILABLE SOON**

**2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey.**

**2008 Table Builder**

**Northern Territory Statistical Training**

**Publication Release Dates**

### **2008 NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SOCIAL SURVEY**

The 2008 NATSISS collects information on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia across a range of areas of social concern. In response to emerging information needs, the objectives of the 2008 NATSISS were expanded to include questions for Indigenous children. The 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) follows on from the 2002 NATSISS and the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey (NATSIS).

**Topics collected include:**

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#### **Children 0-14 Topics**

Income and financial stress  
Health conditions, including disability  
Need for and use of services: child care, employment support, legal  
Participation in cultural activities, festivals, ceremonies, arts, crafts  
Participation in education, training, the labour force  
Lifestyle behaviours: smoking, alcohol consumption, substance use  
Social capital/community connection  
Barriers to service providers  
Housing characteristics: facilities, maintenance, costs.

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#### **Adult 15+ Topics**

Aspects of Indigenous culture  
Mobility  
Education  
Life events  
Participation in organised sport  
Health: maternal, children aged 0–3 years  
Child care  
Sleeping patterns and nutrition

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## Products and services:

Expected Catalogue Number	Publication Title
4714.0.55.004	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey: Children 2008 - Preliminary Publication
4714.0	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey - Main Publication
4714.0.55.002	User Guide - survey content, design and operation, quality, output, dissemination, list of data items, and questionnaire.
Call NIRS 1300 135 070 or client.services@abs.gov.au	Special data services on a fee-for-service basis - tables or other output to user specification.
4714.0.55.001	State and Territory Data Cubes
4720.0	Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF)
4720.0	CURF technical manual
TBA	Community Engagement Materials - summary booklets, State and Territory posters with key results.
TBA	Snapshots - supplementary articles focusing on detailed topics.
4102.0	Feature articles - Australian Social Trends
1383.0.55.001	Feature articles - Measures of Australia's Progress

## 2008 TABLE BUILDER

2006 *Census Table Builder* (cat no. 2065.0) is an interactive, web-based product currently under development by the ABS and Space-Time Research. This product will enable you to build Census tables by remotely interrogating 100% of the 2006 Census Unit Record Files (CURF). Census Table Builder will provide full graphing and mapping functionality, and is expected to be released in August 2009.

## NORTHERN TERRITORY STATISTICAL TRAINING

*Principles of Questionnaire Design* will be delivered in the Darwin office over two days on 8-9 September 2009. The aim of this course is to provide participants with an awareness and understanding of questionnaire design principles. The course covers the selection of collection methodologies, developing survey questions, designing questionnaire layout and testing the questionnaire. Please register your interest by filling in the [application form](#).

## PUBLICATION RELEASE DATES

Please note some publication dates may change after the publication of this newsletter. Check dates under [publications in the next six months](#).



Catalogue Number	Topic - Title	Release Date
<b>Demographic</b>		
<a href="#">3235.0</a>	Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2008	11 Aug
<a href="#">3106.0</a>	Demography News, August 2009	26 Aug
<a href="#">3238.0</a>	Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 1991 to 2021	8 Sep
<a href="#">3101.0</a>	Australian Demographic Statistics, March 2009	22 Sept
<b>Social</b>		
<a href="#">4183.0</a>	Cultural Funding by Government, Australia, 2007-08	28 Aug
<a href="#">4512.0</a>	Corrective Services, Australia, June 2009	17 Sep
<a href="#">4102.0</a>	Australian Social Trends, September 2009	17 Sep
<a href="#">1308.7</a>	Inform NT, September 2009	30 Sept
<b>Economic</b>		
<a href="#">8731.0</a>	Building Approvals, Australia, May 2009	1 July
<a href="#">6553.0</a>	Information Paper: Survey of Income and Housing, User Guide, Australia, 2007-08	1 July
<a href="#">8501.0</a>	Retail Trade, Australia, May 2009	1 July
<a href="#">6202.0</a>	Labour Force, Australia, June 2009	9 July
<a href="#">8752.0</a>	Building Activity, Australia, March 2009	15 July
<a href="#">1364.0.15.003</a>	Modellers' Database, March 2009	15 July
<a href="#">1364.0.15.001</a>	Treasury Model of the Australian Economy - TSP Version, March 2009	15 July
<a href="#">6401.0</a>	Consumer Price Index, Australia, June 2009	22 July
<a href="#">8731.0</a>	Building Approvals, Australia, June 2009	30 July
<a href="#">1350.0</a>	Australian Economic Indicators, August 2009	31 July
<a href="#">8501.0</a>	Retail Trade, Australia, June 2009	3 Aug
<a href="#">6416.0</a>	House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities, June 2009	4 Aug
<a href="#">6202.0</a>	Labour Force, Australia, July 2009	6 Aug
<a href="#">6463.0</a>	Analytical Living Cost Indexes for Selected Australian Household Types, June 2009	26 Aug
<a href="#">1350.0</a>	Australian Economic Indicators, September 2009	31 Aug
<a href="#">8731.0</a>	Building Approvals, Australia, July 2009	1 Sep
<a href="#">5302.0</a>	Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, Australia, June 2009	1 Sep
<a href="#">5206.0</a>	Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product, June 2009	2 Sep
<a href="#">8501.0</a>	Retail Trade, Australia, July 2009	9 Sep
<a href="#">8412.0</a>	Mineral and Petroleum Exploration, Australia, June 2009	9 Sep
<a href="#">6202.0</a>	Labour Force, Australia, August 2009	10 Sep
<a href="#">1376.0</a>	Local Government and ABS, September 2009	24 Sep
<a href="#">8731.0</a>	Building Approvals, Australia, August 2009	30 Sep
<a href="#">8501.0</a>	Retail Trade, Australia, August 2009	30 Sep
<b>Geography</b>		
<a href="#">1216.0.15.001</a>	Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) - Electronic Structures, 01 July 2009	16 July
<a href="#">1216.0.15.002</a>	Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Concordances, July 2009	16 July
<a href="#">1259.0.30.001</a>	Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Digital Boundaries (Intercensal), Australia, July 2009	16 July
<a href="#">1216.0</a>	Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), July 2009	16 Sep

To be notified of a particular publication release, subscribe to our [email notification service](#) and choose the type of publications you are interested in.

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# Contacts



## CONTACTS

### **Call for Contributions and Feedback**

#### **ABS Northern Territory Office**

#### **ABS National Information and Referral Service (NIRS)**

### **Call for Contributions and Feedback**

*Inform NT* is a quarterly newsletter produced by the ABS Northern Territory Office designed to promote statistical developments relevant to the NT. If there is something you would like to see included in future issues, or if you know of something that would be of interest to *Inform NT* readers please let us know.

Likewise, we would like to hear from you if you have any feedback on the content of the newsletter or suggestions for how it may be improved.

Contributions and feedback can be directed to the Client and Statistical Services Branch of the ABS NT Office, phone 08 8943 2100.

### **ABS Northern Territory Office**

Telephone: 08 8943 2100

Fax: 08 8941 1218

Email: [nt.statistics@abs.gov.au](mailto:nt.statistics@abs.gov.au)

### **ABS National Information and Referral Service (NIRS)**

NIRS is the first point of contact for all your statistical and publication enquiries.

Telephone: 1300 135 070

Fax: 1300 135 211

Email: [client.services@abs.gov.au](mailto:client.services@abs.gov.au)

## About this Release

*Inform NT* is a newsletter produced by the Northern Territory office of the ABS. It provides information about new developments, publications, seminars, training and reviews.

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